

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 933

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MX

SUBJ: REACTION TO ASSASSINATION OF GARZA SADA

REF: MONTERREY TELEGRAM 0354 OF SEPTEMBER 17, 1973

S U M M A R Y

POLICE CHIEF ANNOUNCES, GOVERNOR DENIES, POLITICAL INTENT OF GARZA SADA ASSASSINATION. LOCAL ATTACKS ON FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS CHILE POLICY MAY HAVE PROMPTED LEA ATTENDANCE AT FUNERAL.

1. THE CHIEF OF JUDICIAL POLICE ANNOUNCED EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 17 THAT GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSASSINATION OF EUGENIO GARZA SADA HAS BEEN LINKED TO THE COMMUNIST LEAGUE "33 DE SEPTIEMBRE", THE KIDNAPERS OF CG LEONHARDY AND THE RECENT HIJACKERS OF MEXICAN AIRLINER. THE GROUP HAS SUPPOSEDLY BEEN PLANNING KIDNAPINGS OF MONTERREY BUSINESSMEN SINCE 1971. STATE GOVERNOR PEDRO ZORRILLA MARTINEZ, HOWEVER, DENIES ANY POLITICAL LINK TO THE CRIME.

2. THE INCIDENT HAS LED TO ATTACKS ON THE ECHEVERRIA GOVERNMENT LARGEST MONTERREY DAILY "EL NORTE", IN COLUMN PROBABLY WRITTEN BY OWNER ALEJANDRO JUNCO DE LA VEGA, ASSAILED FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
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FOR TOLERATING GUERRILLAS AND EVEN CAUSING THE INCIDENT BY INCITING

DIVISION AND INTRANSIGENT HATRED. A MIDDLE-MANAGEMENT OFFICIAL OF A GARZA GROUP BANK TOLD CONSULATE OFFICER THAT CENTRO PATRONAL AND CHAMBERS OF BANKING, COMMERCE AND MANUFACTURING HAD AUTHORED DOCUMENT CONDEMNING ECHEVERRIA FOR PAMPERING CRIMINAL ELEMENTS AND EQUIVOCATING WHEN DECISIVE ACTION WOULD HAVE PREVENTED TRAGEDY.

3. INCIDENT HAS ALSO RESULTED IN ANTI-ALLENDE SENTIMENT. FRONT PAGE OF "EL NORTE" CARICATURES A BESTIAL ARMED GUERRILLA WAIVING A VOLUME OF MARX AND STEPPING FROM CHILE TO MEXICO. AFOREMENTIONED CHAMBERS DOCUMENT ALLEGEDLY CLAIMED THAT GOVERNMENT'S PRO-ALLENDE POSTURE AND "PRECIPITOUS" THREE-DAY MOURNING HAD INDICATED SYMPATHY TO LEFT-WING TERRORISM.

4. IT LIKELY THAT LEA'S SUDDEN DECISION TO ATTEND FUNERAL IN PERSON IS A PARTIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE MOOD. FLOWERS AND TWO CABINET MEMBERS (ONE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE) HAD ALREADY BEEN SENT. DECISION PROBABLY MADE AFTER MORNING PAPERS (WHICH CARRIED ANNOUNCEMENT THAT LEA WOULD BE REPRESENTED BY CABINET MEMBERS) HAD GONE TO PRESS.
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